

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 32 to 45 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, add new Claims 61 to 64 and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a user to ~~remotely~~ obtain exclusive control of a device's capabilities ~~device~~ over a network, the method comprising the steps of:

~~remotely establishing communication with the device over the network;~~  
requesting to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;  
determining whether the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

in a case where the determining step determines that the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, providing the user ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

in a case where the determining step determines that the device is not available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, adding the user to a reservation queue of users requesting exclusive control of the device's capabilities[[:]] and providing ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities to the user when the user reaches a first position within the reservation queue;

requesting to process a job using the device's capabilities; and

adding the requested job to a job queue of jobs to be processed using the device's capabilities,

wherein, if the user has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, at least one job within the job queue, corresponding to a user other than the user who has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, is deferred from being processed ~~until remote exclusive control of the device's capabilities by the user who has been provided remote exclusive control is relinquished~~ during a period in which the user, who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, maintains exclusive control of the device's capabilities.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein providing ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities comprises temporarily deferring requests by users other than the user who has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities to perform operations utilizing the device's capabilities during a period in which the user maintains ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the device is under exclusive control of another user.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 3, wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the device is under exclusive control of another

user, further comprising determining whether the user requesting **remote** exclusive control of the device has a higher priority than the other user and, if the requesting user does have a higher priority than the other user, temporarily yielding exclusive control of the device to the requesting user, thereby providing the requesting user with **remote** exclusive control of the device.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the user is authorized to obtain **remote** exclusive control of the device.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, in a case where the user is added to the reservation queue of users requesting exclusive control of the device, adding the user at a position within the reservation queue based on a priority of the user.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the user advances in the reservation queue as other users are removed from the reservation queue, and when the user reaches the first position within the reservation queue, providing the user with **remote** exclusive control of the device and notifying the user that **remote** exclusive control has been provided.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the user advances in the reservation queue as other users are removed from the reservation queue,

and when the user reaches the first position within the reservation queue, notifying the user that ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device can be obtained and waiting a predetermined time for the user to confirm that ~~remote~~ exclusive control is to be provided.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein after the predetermined time has elapsed, removing the user from the reservation queue and notifying the user that the user has ~~they have~~ been removed from the reservation queue.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein after the predetermined time has elapsed, moving the user to a new position within the reservation queue ~~and notifying the user of the new position.~~

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the new position is a last position within the reservation queue.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the new position is based on the user's priority as compared with other users in the reservation queue.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the device is a multifunction device and wherein the device's capabilities comprise printing, facsimile, scanning and copying.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control, further comprising the step of authenticating the user before the user is provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, in a case where the user is provided with ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining identification information of the user; and

based on the obtained identification information, automatically manipulating a print jobs job within the job ~~a print~~ queue so as to print out the print job ~~jobs~~ pending in the job print queue for the user during a period in which the user maintains ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities ~~device~~, while temporarily deferring at least one other print job jobs pending in the print job queue.

16. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, the process steps for a user to ~~remotely~~ obtain exclusive control of a device over a network, comprising the steps of:

~~remotely establishing communication with the device over the network;~~

requesting to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

determining whether the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

in a case where the determining step determines that the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, providing the user ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

in a case where the determining step determines that the device is not available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, adding the user to a reservation queue of users requesting exclusive control of the device[[]] and providing ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities to the user when the user reaches a first position within the reservation queue;

requesting to process a job using the device's capabilities; and

adding the requested job to a job queue of jobs to be processed using the device's capabilities,

wherein, if the user has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, at least one job within the job queue, corresponding to a user other than the user who has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, is deferred from being processed ~~until remote exclusive control of the device's capabilities by the user who has been provided remote exclusive control is relinquished~~ during a period in which the user, who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, maintains exclusive control of the device's capabilities.

17. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein providing ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities comprises temporarily deferring requests by users other than the user who has been

provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities to perform operations utilizing the device's capabilities during a period in which the user maintains ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities.

18. (Original) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the device is under exclusive control of another user.

19. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 18, wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the device is under exclusive control of another user, further comprising determining whether the user requesting ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device has a higher priority than the other user and, if the requesting user does have a higher priority than the other user, temporarily yielding exclusive control of the device to the requesting user, thereby providing the requesting user with ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device.

20. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the user is authorized to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device.

21. (Original) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein, in a case where the user is added to the reservation queue of users requesting

exclusive control of the device, adding the user at a position within the reservation queue based on a priority of the user.

22. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 21, wherein the user advances in the reservation queue as other users are removed from the reservation queue, and when the user reaches the first position within the reservation queue, providing the user with ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device and notifying the user that ~~remote~~ exclusive control has been provided.

23. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 21, wherein the user advances in the reservation queue as other users are removed from the reservation queue, and when the user reaches the first position within the reservation queue, notifying the user that ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device can be obtained and waiting a predetermined time for the user to confirm that ~~remote~~ exclusive control is to be provided.

24. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 23, wherein after the predetermined time has elapsed, removing the user from the reservation queue and notifying the user that the user has ~~they have~~ been removed from the reservation queue.



25. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 23, wherein after the predetermined time has elapsed, moving the user to a new position within the reservation queue ~~and notifying the user of the new position.~~

26. (Original) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 25, wherein the new position is a last position within the reservation queue.

27. (Previously Presented) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 25, wherein the new position is based on the user's priority as compared with other users in the reservation queue.

28. (Original) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein the device is a multifunction device and wherein the device's capabilities comprise printing, facsimile, scanning and copying.

29. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control, further comprising the step of authenticating the user before the user is provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device.

30. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein, in a case where the user is provided with ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining identification information of the user; and

based on the obtained identification information, automatically manipulating a print jobs job within ~~a print~~ the job queue so as to print out the print jobs job pending in the ~~print job~~ queue for the user during a period in which the user maintains ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, while temporarily deferring ~~other~~ at least one print jobs job pending in the ~~print job~~ queue.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium on which is stored ~~stores~~ computer-executable code ~~process steps~~ for a user to ~~remotely~~ obtain exclusive control of a device over a network, the computer-executable process ~~steps~~ code comprising:

~~remotely establishing communication with the device over the network;~~

requesting to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

determining whether the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

in a case where the determining step determines that the device is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, providing the user ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities;

in a case where the determining step determines that the device is not available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, adding the user to a reservation queue of users requesting exclusive control of the device[[:]] and providing ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities to the user when the user reaches a first position within the reservation queue;

requesting to process a job using the device's capabilities; and

adding the requested job to a job queue of jobs to be processed using the device's capabilities,

wherein, if the user has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, at least one job within the job queue, corresponding to a user other than the user who has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the device's capabilities, is deferred from being processed ~~until remote exclusive control of the device's capabilities by the user who has been provided remote exclusive control is relinquished~~ during a period in which the user, who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities maintains exclusive control of the device's capabilities.

32. to 45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~which~~ providing a user ~~can remotely obtain with~~ exclusive control of ~~over a network~~ the apparatus' capabilities, the apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores computer-executable process steps; and

a processor which executes the computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps comprising ~~(a) establishing communication with a remote device over the network, (b)~~ (a) receiving a request from the remote device for a user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, ~~(c)~~ (b) determining whether the apparatus is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, ~~(d)~~ (c) in a case where the determining step determines that the apparatus is available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, providing the user ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, ~~(e)~~ (d) in a case where the determining step determines that the apparatus is not available for the user to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, adding the user to a reservation queue of users requesting exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities (f) and providing ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the ~~device's~~ apparatus' capabilities to the user when the user reaches a first position within the reservation queue, ~~(g) requesting~~ (f) receiving a request to process a job using the ~~device's~~ apparatus' capabilities, and ~~(h)~~ (g) adding the requested job to a job queue of jobs to be processed using the ~~device's~~ apparatus' capabilities,

wherein, if the user has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the ~~device's~~ apparatus' capabilities, at least one job within the job queue, corresponding to a user other than the user who has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the ~~device's~~ apparatus' capabilities, is deferred from being processed ~~until remote exclusive control of the device's capabilities by the user who has been provided remote exclusive control is~~

~~relinquished~~ during a period in which the user, who has been provided exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, maintains exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities.

47. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein providing ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities comprises temporarily deferring requests by users other than the user who has been provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities to perform operations utilizing the apparatus' capabilities during a period in which the user maintains ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities.

48. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the apparatus is under exclusive control of another user.

49. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the apparatus is under exclusive control of another user, further comprising determining whether the user requesting ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the ~~device~~ apparatus has a higher priority than the other user and, if the requesting user does have a higher priority than the other user, temporarily yielding exclusive control of the apparatus to the requesting user, thereby providing the requesting user with ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus.

50. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the user is authorized to obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus.

51. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein, in a case where the user is added to the reservation queue of users requesting exclusive control of the apparatus, adding the user at a position within the reservation queue based on a priority of the user.

52. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein the user advances in the reservation queue as other users are removed from the reservation queue, and when the user reaches the first position within the reservation queue, providing the user with ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus and notifying the user that ~~remote~~ exclusive control has been provided.

53. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein the user advances in the reservation queue as other users are removed from the reservation queue, and when the user reaches the first position within the reservation queue, notifying the user that ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus can be obtained and waiting a predetermined time for the user to confirm that ~~remote~~ exclusive control is to be provided.

54. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein after the predetermined time has elapsed, removing the user from the reservation queue and notifying the user that ~~they have~~ the user has been removed from the reservation queue.

55. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein after the predetermined time has elapsed, moving the user to a new position within the reservation queue ~~and notifying the user of the new position.~~

56. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the new position is a last position within the reservation queue.

57. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the new position is based on the user's priority as compared with other users in the reservation queue.

58. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein the apparatus is a multifunction device and wherein the apparatus' capabilities comprise printing, facsimile, scanning and copying.

59. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the apparatus is available for the user to

obtain ~~remote~~ exclusive control, further comprising the step of authenticating the user before the user is provided ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus.

60. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein, in a case where the user is provided with ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus, the executable process steps further ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

obtaining identification information of the user; and

based on the obtained identification information, automatically manipulating a print jobs job within ~~a print the job~~ queue so as to print out a print jobs job pending in the print job queue for the user during a period in which the user maintains ~~remote~~ exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, while temporarily deferring ~~other~~ at least one print jobs job pending in the print job queue.

61. (New) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of, if no user is provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, processing a job which reaches a first position within the job queue.

62. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one job, corresponding to the user other than the user who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, is deferred from being processed until the user, who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, pushes a button on the device for relinquishing exclusive control of the device's capabilities.



63. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein the executable process steps further comprises a step of, if no user is provided exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities, processing a job which reaches a first position within the job queue.

64. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 46, further comprising:  
control panel for relinquishing exclusive control of the apparatus'  
capabilities,

wherein the at least one job, corresponding to the user other than the user who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, is deferred from being processed until the user, who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, operates the control panel to relinquish exclusive control of the apparatus' capabilities.